

# **RULES OF THE NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL**

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# **RULE 1—OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

## **A. Election of Officers**

**Section 1. Officers To Be Elected.** At the commencement of each regular session in odd-numbered years the Legislature shall nominate from the floor and elect by secret ballot the following officers:

Speaker  
Chairman of Committee on Committees  
Chairman of Executive Board  
Vice-Chairman of Executive Board  
6 Members of Executive Board (See footnote)

Before the ballot is taken each person so nominated may make a public statement to the Legislature indicating what the Legislature may expect from him or her in the area of the responsibility of such office. The officers so elected shall hold such office for a period of two years.

*The Legislature elects two from legislative districts Nos. 1, 2, 15, 16, 23 through 30, 32 through 35, and 46; two from legislative districts Nos. 3 through 14, 20, 31, and 45; and two from legislative districts Nos. 17 through 19, 21, 22, 36 through 44, and 47 through 49. Speaker is member of Board; Chairman of Appropriations is nonvoting member; RRS 50-401.01.*

**Sec. 2. Officers To Be Approved.** In addition, the Legislature shall advise and consent to the recommendations of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council for the following officers:

Chief Clerk of the Legislature  
Assistant Clerk of the Legislature  
Sergeant at Arms  
Chaplain

*Officers and employees recommended by the Executive Board, RRS 50-111.*

**Sec. 3. Voting on and Removal of Officers.** (a) A majority vote of the elected members shall be required for the election of all officers of the Legislature. All officers shall hold their office until a successor is chosen or they are removed.

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(b) Any officer of the Legislature may be recalled upon a two-thirds majority vote of the members elected to the Legislature provided no such recall shall be voted on until five legislative days after the motion to do so is placed in the Journal. The vacancy thus created shall be filled by a majority vote of the members.

**Sec. 4. Officer's Oath.** Each permanent officer shall take an oath to support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, and to discharge faithfully the duties of his office according to the best of his ability.

### **B. Presiding Officer**

**Sec. 5. President of Legislature.** The Lieutenant Governor shall preside as President of the Legislature. The Speaker shall serve as acting President and preside when the Lieutenant Governor shall be absent, incapacitated, or shall be acting as Governor. All references herein made to the President shall be construed as meaning also the Speaker whenever he may preside.

*Prohibited from presiding when acting as Governor. Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

*Duties and powers. RRS 50-113.*

**Sec. 6. Presiding Officer, Order in Designating.** In the absence of both the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker, the order of the presiding officer of the Legislature shall be as follows:

Chairman of the Legislative Council  
Chairman of the Committee on Committees  
Chairman of Committee on Judiciary  
Chairman of Committee on Government, Military and  
Veterans Affairs  
Chairman of Committee on Appropriations  
Chairman of Committee on Revenue  
Chairman of Committee on Education  
Chairman of Committee on Banking, Commerce and  
Insurance  
Chairman of Committee on Public Works  
Chairman of Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Chairman of Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Chairman of Committee on Miscellaneous Subjects  
Chairman of Committee on Business and Labor  
(Cont.)

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### Chairman of Committee on Urban Affairs Chairman of Committee on Constitutional Revision and Recreation

#### *Emergency Succession RRS 50-503 (7)*

**Sec. 7. Powers of Presiding Officer, Restrictions.** All the powers herein conferred on the President shall be exercised by the presiding officer, except the authority to sign bills or resolutions passed by the Legislature.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

*Addressing the Chair. Rule 2, Sec. 7.*

*Duties RRS 50-113.*

**Sec. 8. Alternate Presiding Officers.** The President may name any member to perform the duties of the presiding officer, but such delegation shall not extend beyond adjournment. When possible the order for delegation of the presiding officer shall be as set forth in Sec. 6, supra.

**Sec. 9. Convening of Legislature, Quorum.** The President shall take the chair each legislative day at the hour to which the Legislature shall have adjourned at the last sitting. He shall call the Legislature to order, and a quorum being present, shall proceed in the manner and order prescribed by these rules. A majority of the members elected to the Legislature shall constitute a quorum.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

**Sec. 10. Absence of Quorum.** If the President finds that a number less than a quorum is present, he shall so state, and a majority of the members present, if five in number, may compel the presence of all members subject to a Call of the Legislature.

**Sec. 11. Order and Decorum.** The President shall preserve order and decorum, and in case of disturbance or disorderly conduct in the galleries, or in the lobby, may cause the same to be cleared.

*Consent to enter Chamber. Rule 2, Sec. 3.*

**Sec. 12. President Decide Order of Speaking.** The President may speak to a point of order in preference to members, and shall decide the questions or order, subject to a challenge to the Legislature by any member, on which challenge no member may speak more than once, unless by leave of the Legislature. In the event of a challenge to a ruling of the Chair, the ruling shall be restated and the question shall be phrased: "Shall the chair be overruled?". A majority of those present shall be required to overrule the Chair.

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**Sec. 13. Signing of Bills and Resolutions.** The President shall sign, in the presence of the Legislature, while the same is in session and capable of transacting business all bills and resolutions passed by the Legislature. All writs, warrants, and subpoenas issued by order of the Legislature shall be under his hand and seal, and attested to by the Clerk.

*Only Lieutenant Governor or Speaker may sign bills Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 14. Lieutenant Governor Voting When.** The Lieutenant Governor, when presiding, shall vote only when the Legislature is equally divided.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

### **C. Speaker**

**Sec. 15. Speaker, Presiding, Privilege.** The Speaker shall preside over the Legislature at such times and circumstances as is above set forth. He shall be privileged to speak at any stage of proceedings at any time incident to the duties and responsibilities of his office.

*Distribution of material by Clerk. Rule 2, Sec. 3f.*

*Excuse attendance at committee hearing. Rule 2, Sec. 4.*

*Power to refer bill back to committee. Rule 6, Sec. 2g.*

*Signing of bills. Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 16. Report Order of Bills.** (a) The Speaker with the approval of the Executive Board shall report to the Legislature the order in which bills and resolutions shall be considered on General File. His orders as approved are final unless changed by a majority vote of the elected members of the Legislature. General appropriation bills shall be given precedence over all other bills.

*For motions to expedite. Rule 6, Sec. 2c.*

(b) The Speaker may, when sound judgment would so dictate, postpone the schedule reconvening of the Legislature for up to forty-eight hours when (1) an emergency exists due to adverse weather or other causes, or (2) a quorum can not be assembled within one half hour after the time to which the Legislature was to have convened.

### **D. Clerk of the Legislature**

**Sec. 17. Duties, Journal, Report on Employees.** (a) The Clerk of the Legislature shall attend sessions, call the roll, and keep journal of proceedings.

(b) The Clerk of the Legislature shall print no paper or document, except bills and the daily Journal, unless authorized by a majority vote of the elected members of the Legislature, or by the Executive Board.

*Preprinting of Bills. Rule 5, Sec. 3.*

(c) The Clerk of the Legislature shall make a detailed and itemized report to the Legislature each month concerning the number of employees and the amount paid for their services, especially setting out the amount of regular time and overtime, and to whom paid.

(d) The Clerk of the Legislature shall have general charge, except as may be provided by law or by rule, of such parts of the Capitol and its passages as are or may be set apart for the use of the Legislature and its officers and employees.

(e) No communications or letters shall be read by the Clerk of the Legislature unless authorized by the Speaker or the Reference Committee.

*General Duties. RRS 50-114*

*Distribute material, when authorized. Rule 2, Sec. 3f.*

*Fiscal notes, attach to bills. Rule 5, Sec. 6d.*

*Lobby Registration. RRS 50-308 through 50-318.*

*File Administrative Rules. RRS 84-904.*

**Sec. 18. Journal, Governor's Messages, Amendments.** (a) The Clerk shall prepare a daily Journal of the proceedings of the Legislature, which shall be printed and placed each day upon the desks of the members, and the presiding officer shall call in the regular order of business for corrections thereof. After corrections, if any are made, the Journal shall stand approved without motion.

*For order. Rule 7, Sec. 1b.*

(b) The clerk shall enter in the daily Journal messages of the Governor in full, titles of bills, every vote, including the yeas and nays, and a brief statement of the contents of each resolution, petition, and memorial or other paper presented for the consideration of the Legislature.

*Constitutional Amendment, print in full. Const. Art. XVI. Sec. 1.*

(c) The hour at which the Legislature adjourns shall be entered in the daily Journal.

(d) All amendments for which a vote is taken shall be entered in the daily Journal.

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(e) Additional copies of the daily Journal, to be mailed at his direction shall be supplied for the use of each member in such manner as shall be provided by the Legislature.

(f) The bound Journal of the session shall be prepared from the corrected daily Journal.

(g) A verbatim record of all debate and questions on all bills and resolutions, and amendments offered thereto, shall be made, transcribed, and preserved, under the direction of the Clerk.

(h) A list of lobbyists who are registered shall be set forth in the Journal.

*RRS 50-310.*

*On Registration of lobbyists. RRS 50-308 through 50-318.*

**Sec. 19. Assistant Clerk, Duties.** The Assistant Clerk shall, in the absence of the Clerk, be authorized to exercise all of the duties herein prescribed for the Clerk of the Legislature, including the signing of those papers which may require the signature of the Clerk of the Legislature.

*RRS 50-115*

## **E. Other Offices**

**Sec. 20. Sergeant at Arms.** (a) The Sergeant at Arms shall attend the Legislature during its sittings, to execute the commands of the Legislature from time to time, together with all such processes issued by authority thereof as shall be directed to him by the presiding officer, and shall enforce strictly the rules as they relate to privileges of the Legislative Chamber.

*RRS 50-116*

(b) The Assistant Sergeant at Arms shall assist the Sergeant at Arms and in the absence of the latter, shall perform all of the duties herein prescribed for the Sergeant at Arms.

(c) Such other security guards as may be necessary shall be under the direction of the Speaker.

*Compel attendance at committee hearing. Rule 2, Sec. 4.*



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**Sec. 21. Chaplain.** The Chaplain shall attend and shall open with prayer each day's sitting of the Legislature.

*RRS 50-120*

**Sec. 22. Other Employees, Hiring of.** The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall hire all employees of the Legislature except those subject to the procedure in Rule 1, Sec. 2. The salaries of permanent employees shall be determined by the Executive Board subject to the limits of the appropriation bill. The Executive Board shall submit a salary schedule the first day of each session to the Legislature for all temporary employee positions. Such salary schedule shall be considered adopted unless rejected or amended by a majority of the elected members. No further adjustments in individual salaries for temporary employees need to be submitted to the Legislature for that session.

*RRS 50-112*



## RULE 2—RULES OF PROCEDURE

**Section 1. Rules, Matters Not Covered.** These rules shall govern the Legislature. In all matters not covered herein, the Legislature shall decide as to the procedure to be followed, the same to require the concurrence of a majority of the elected members.

*Overruling the Chair. Rule 1, Sec. 12.  
Presiding officer, duties. RRS 50-113.*

**Sec. 2. Rules, Suspension, Amendment.** These rules may only be suspended by a three-fifths majority of the elected members by a machine vote, and may be amended by a three-fifths majority vote of the members elected; Provided, any proposed amendment must first be referred to the committee on Rules for consideration and report.

**Sec. 3. Chamber, Guests, Distributions of Material.** (a) The Legislative Chamber shall consist of the entire floor of the Legislative Chamber including the space under the balcony on either side adjacent thereto, or any other space designated by the Legislature or the Executive Board thereof.

(b) No person shall be admitted to the floor of the Legislature, as described in this rule, except the following:

- (i) Members of the Legislature and their immediate families.
- (ii) Officers and employees of the Legislature.
- (iii) Reporters of regularly accredited newspapers and broadcasting stations.

(c) The Governor, state officers, former legislators, and other distinguished visitors may be admitted to the floor upon permission from the Chair.

*State officials appearing before committees. Rule 3, Sec. 6.*

(d) No one shall be permitted to be seated beside members of the Legislature except members of their immediate families upon permission from the Chair. When bills are being read on Final Reading, no one shall be permitted to be seated beside members of the Legislature.

(e) No person, other than those hereinbefore excepted, shall be admitted to the members' cloak room or post office, unless accompanied by a member.

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(f) No printed or written material of any nature may be placed on the desks of the members or distributed to them in the Legislative Chamber, unless such material clearly indicates on its face the person responsible for its distribution. The distribution must be approved by at least one member of the Legislature. The Speaker may authorize the Clerk to distribute material prepared by state agencies.

(g) Members shall remain in their seats during the Final Reading of a bill and until the vote thereon has been announced, except when excused by the President.

**Sec. 4. Attendance at Sessions.** (a) Every member shall be present within the Legislative Chamber during the meetings of the Legislature and shall attend the regular meeting of the standing committee of which he is a member, unless excused by the Legislature, the Speaker, or the committee chairman. Members who have been excused by the Legislature or the Speaker shall notify their committee chairman that they will be absent.

(b) The presence of any member may be compelled, if necessary, by sending the Sergeant at Arms, or such other person or persons as the membership present may authorize, at the expense of such absent member, unless such excuse for nonattendance is made as the Legislature may judge sufficient, and in that case the expense shall be paid out of the contingent fund.

**Sec. 5. Absent Members, Explanation of Vote.** Absent members may have inserted into the Journal how he would have voted had he been present.

**Sec. 6. Expulsion of Members.** No member shall be expelled except by a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to the Legislature, and no member shall be twice expelled for the same offense.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

**Sec. 7. Senator Desiring to Speak.** (a) When a member desires to speak in debate or to deliver any matter to the Legislature, he shall rise from his seat and respectfully address himself to "Mr. President." A member shall speak only when recognized and shall confine himself to the question before the Legislature.

(b) No member shall interrupt the business of the Legislature nor speak to another who has the floor, except when he may yield to a question. No guest will be introduced during the legislative session except dignitaries

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and such dignitaries shall only be introduced by the presiding officer, provided that the presiding officer can announce the presence of visiting groups or organizations at his discretion. Those individuals and groups not introduced may be inserted in the Journal by request. No member shall use profane or abusive language when speaking to or about another member.

**Sec. 8. Transgression of Rules, Call Member to Order.** If any member, in speaking or otherwise, transgresses the rules of the Legislature, the presiding officer shall, or any member may, call him to order, in which case he shall immediately sit down, unless permitted on motion of another member to explain, and the Legislature shall, if appealed to, decide the case without debate. If the decision be in favor of the member called to order, he shall be at liberty to proceed, but not otherwise, and if the case requires it, he shall be liable to censure or such punishment as the Legislature may deem proper.

**Sec. 9. Words Excepted To.** If a member is called to order for words spoken in debate, the member calling him to order shall indicate the words excepted to, and they shall be taken down in writing at the Clerk's desk and read aloud to the Legislature, but he shall not be held to answer, nor be subject to the censure of the Legislature therefore, if further debate or other business shall have intervened.

**Sec. 10. Time Limit on Speaking.** Each member shall be allowed to speak up to three times for not more than five minutes on each occasion, upon any one question in deliberation during the legislative day, without leave of the Legislature, unless he be the mover, proposer, or introducer of the matter pending in which case he shall be permitted to speak in reply, but not until every other member choosing to speak shall have spoken. Provided, however, the mover, proposer or introducer of the matter pending may speak for ten minutes when he first presents the matter to the Legislature.

**Sec. 11. Personal Privilege.** Personal privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights, dignity, and integrity of the Legislature collectively; and second, the rights, reputation, and conduct of members individually. They shall have precedence over all other questions except motions to adjourn. Personal privilege shall not be used to permit any discussion or debate pertaining to any measure pending before the Legislature. All questions of privilege shall be channeled through the presiding officer, who shall determine their order of consideration.



## RULE 3—COMMITTEES

**Section 1. Standing Committees Defined.** All committees with regular meeting times shall be identified as standing committees. The membership of all standing committees shall be appointed at the beginning of each session beginning in odd-numbered years and shall continue until the regular session in the next subsequent odd-numbered year.

**Sec. 2. Standing Committees, Permanent.** The standing committees and the number of members shall be as follows:

Agriculture and Environment . . . . .	8 members
Appropriations . . . . .	9 members
Banking, Commerce and Insurance . . . . .	8 members
Business and Labor . . . . .	7 members
Constitutional Revision and Recreation . . . . .	7 members
Education . . . . .	8 members
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs . . . . .	8 members
Judiciary . . . . .	8 members
Miscellaneous Subjects . . . . .	8 members
Public Health and Welfare . . . . .	7 members
Public Works . . . . .	8 members
Revenue . . . . .	8 members
Urban Affairs . . . . .	8 members

The Speaker shall not be a regular member of any standing committee.

All committee members shall be nominated by the Committee on Committees in such manner as is hereafter set forth.

*Committee on Committees. Rule 3, Sec. 17.*

*Budget—Governor's Bill, Introduction. Rule 5, Sec. 7.*

*Chairman, Appropriations Committee, Member Executive Board. RRS 50-401.01*

*Government Committee—Review Civil Defense program. RRS 50-127*

**Sec. 3. Chairman, Vice-Chairman.** (a) The Chairman of each committee shall be selected by secret ballot on the floor of the Legislature.

(b) Each standing committee shall elect from its membership a vice-chairman to serve in the absence of the chairman.

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**Sec. 4. Meeting Times.** Standing committees shall meet at 2:00 p.m., unless otherwise ordered by the Legislature. Any committee chairman before deciding not to hold committee meetings or a committee meeting on an assigned day, must receive permission from the Reference Committee.

*Reference Committee. Rule 3, Sec. 19.*

*Excuse from attendance. Rule 2, Sec. 4.*

**Sec. 5. Public Hearing, Notice.** Before taking final action on a bill or resolution, a committee shall hold a public hearing thereon and shall give at least seven calendar days' notice, after the bill shall have been printed, by publication in the Legislative Journal, of the date and time of said hearings. No bill, having been set for public hearing, shall be withdrawn nor the hearing canceled within seven calendar days' of the date set for said public hearing, except for hearings set during the first 20 legislative days of each session, there shall be required only five calendar days' notice of said hearing or withdrawal of said bill.

*Reference of bill to committee. Rule 3, Sec. 20.*

*Withdrawal of bills before hearing. Rule 5, Sec. 11.*

**Sec. 6. State Officials Appearing Before Committees.** State officials and department heads, or their designee and state employees may appear before any legislative committee.

*State officials appearing on chamber floor. Rule 2, Sec. 3.*

**Sec. 7. Executive Sessions, Press.** Executive sessions of standing committees shall be open to the news media.

**Reports on votes by a committee shall be as follows:**

1. The vote of an individual senator on all motions may be reported.
2. The press may report the vote of individual senators by name on any motion.

*Privilege of press on floor. Rule 2, Sec. 3b iii.*



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**Sec. 8. Consideration and Correlation of Bills.** Standing committees shall consider and report without unnecessary delay all bills and resolutions referred to them. Standing committees shall be authorized to combine and to correlate the provisions of different bills referred to them and related to the same subject under the number of one of the correlated bills, and may, before taking final action on any bill, adopt amendments thereto, for the consideration of the Legislature.

The chairman of each committee shall take into consideration the importance, need for, and passage of the bills referred to his committee and set the bills for hearing accordingly.

*Review of workload by Committee on Committees. Rule 3, Sec. 17f.*

**Sec. 9. Debate Before Committees.** Each standing committee shall keep a record of its proceedings. Any two members of the committee may demand a roll call upon the reporting of any bill, or upon amendments thereto. The vote so taken shall be made a part of the committee report.

**Sec. 10. Request From Committee, Bills Held.** (a) Except for the general appropriation bills necessary for the support of the state government for the biennium, the Legislature may, by vote of a majority of the elected members, request a report from any standing committee at any time after said committee shall have been in possession of a bill or resolution for twenty legislative days.

(b) Any senator may move that a bill be placed on General File twenty days or more after the committee hearing, and by a vote of a majority of the elected members, said bill shall be placed on General File.

(c) Any time the introducer of a bill attempts to take a bill from committee to be placed on General File, the bill shall stand indefinitely postponed if the motion fails to receive a majority vote of the members elected to the Legislature.

**Sec. 11. Report of Bill to Legislature.** In reporting a bill to the Legislature, whether with or without amendments, a standing committee shall, by vote of a majority of its members, recommend that the bill be placed on General File or that the bill be indefinitely postponed. Such action shall be taken at regularly scheduled committee meetings only. A report on a bill or resolution must be made to the Legislature within eight calendar days after the committee has acted upon the particular measure. No bill shall be

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reported by the committee to be placed on General File unless the amendments, if any, are approved as to form and draftsmanship by the bill drafter.

**Sec. 12. Indefinitely Postponed Bills.** If the standing committee report on a bill be to postpone indefinitely, the bill shall stand indefinitely postponed; Provided, that such bill may be placed on General File or referred back to the standing committee by a three-fifths vote of the elected members upon motion made within three legislative days after the committee makes its report to the Legislature, or by a two-thirds vote of the elected members upon motion made more than three legislative days after such committee report. Not more than one bill shall be raised from committee on any one motion. A motion to raise cannot be amended to include any other bill or subject matter. A motion to raise must be disposed of by the Legislature within five legislative days after the motion is available for consideration or it shall be deemed defeated.

**Sec. 13. Standing Committee Statement.** Each standing committee with the assistance of the legislative staff shall, when reporting a bill, submit therewith a brief statement of the main purpose and the provisions of the bill, and, if recommended to General File, a copy of all amendments recommended by the committee. Such statement shall give the committee's reason for so reporting. A minority view signed by whoever proposed it may also be given. Copy of amendments shall be furnished to the members. On a motion to report the bill to the floor the majority report shall reflect the voting record of each senator.

**Sec. 14. Temporary Appointments.** (a) When a member is unable to serve, the chairman of such committee after a majority vote of the remaining members shall request to fill such vacancy or vacancies. The request shall be made to the Committee on Committees and such committee shall appoint either the Speaker, or a member from a regular standing committee having eight members to fill such vacancy or vacancies.

(b) A temporary appointment may be made by the chairman of the Committee on Committees for only one day when requested by a chairman of a regular standing committee which lacks a quorum. When a member is appointed from an eight-member committee, the consent of the member to be appointed shall first be obtained. The temporary appointee shall have the right to vote only on the bill or bills that actually have been heard by the appointee and provided that the vote is taken on such bills on the day the bill or bills are heard. When such appointment is made in case

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of an incapacitated member or members, such appointee shall cease to be a member of such committee upon the return of the incapacitated member for whom he was appointed.

**Sec. 15. Select Committees, Defined.** All permanent committees without a regular meeting time shall be identified as select committees. The members of all select committees shall be appointed by the Committee on Committees unless otherwise provided for by statute or rule.

**Sec. 16. Select Committees, Named.** The permanent select committees shall be as follows:

Committee on Committees .....	13 members
Enrollment and Review .....	1 member
Reference .....	9 members
Rules .....	5 members

*Committee on Committees. Rule 3, Sec. 17.*

*E & R. Rule 3, Sec. 18.*

*Reference Committee. Rule 3, Sec. 19.*

*Rules Committee, Review of Amendment to Rules. Rule 2, Sec. 2.*

**Sec. 17. Committee on Committees.** (a) At the commencement of each session, the Legislature shall elect a Committee on Committees to consist of thirteen members, one at large who shall be chairman, and three from District No. 1 consisting of legislative districts Nos. 1 through 3, 25 through 30, 32, 45, and 46; three from District No. 2 consisting of legislative districts Nos. 4 through 14, 20, and 31; three from District No. 3 consisting of legislative districts 15 through 19, 21 through 24, 34, 35, and 40, and three from District No. 4 consisting of legislative districts 33, 36 through 39, 41 through 44, and 47 through 49.

(b) The Committee on Committees by a majority vote of all of its members, shall recommend to the Legislature for its approval appointments to the standing and select committees, each with the number of members as set forth, unless otherwise provided for herein or by statute.

(c) Committee on Committees shall publish a schedule of regular standing committee meetings, in such manner as to avoid, as far as possible, conflicts in the assignment of members to such committees.

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(d) All nominations made to the Legislature by the Governor, requiring confirmation by the Legislature, shall be referred to the Committee on Committees, and the same procedure shall be followed as governs the handling of other matters before standing committees, unless the Legislature shall otherwise direct by unanimous vote.

*73-74 Attorney General Opinion No. 56 – Need 25 votes to disapprove.*

(e) The chairman of the Committee on Committees shall daily report the number and identity of any bills held by a committee when said committee has taken action on said bill more than eight days prior thereto. Said report shall be set forth in the Journal.

(f) The Committee on Committees shall have authority to call before it a committee chairman and discuss the workload of said committee. They shall hear and dispose of all written complaints filed with said committee by a senator against any committee chairman. The Committee on Committees shall conduct said hearing in accordance with its own rules.

*See Rule 3, Sec. 3 a for selection of chairman.*

*See Rule 3, Sec. 3 b for selection of vice-chairman.*

**Sec. 18. Enrollment and Review.** (a) The chairman of Enrollment and Review shall be in order at any time in reporting bills which have been engrossed for Final Reading and passage. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman of the Judiciary Committee shall assume the duties of the chairman of the Enrollment and Review Committee.

(b) The bill drafting service shall have supervision of and provide legal services for Enrollment and Review Committee.

(c) The chairman of Enrollment and Review shall have authority, without being required to include the same specifically in his reports and recommendations to the Legislature, in accord with accepted usage:

- i To correct the spelling of words, to correct erroneous division and hyphenation of words, to capitalize or decapitalize words, and to change numbers from words to figures or from figures to words, in new and independent acts, in the new matter of amendatory acts, in standing committee reports, and in General File, Select File, and specific amendments.
- ii To underscore or remove underscoring, as the case requires, in standing committee reports and in General File, Select File, and specific amendments.

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- iii When an amendment to add the emergency clause, the severability clause, or provide an operative date is adopted on Select File which does not spell out the standard clause or section and make the necessary change in the title, the chairman of Enrollment and Review shall also have the authority to add to the engrossed bill the standard clause or section, assigning to it the appropriate section number, and make the necessary change in the title as a matter of course without including such action in his reports and recommendations to the Legislature or making any special record thereof.

*For amendments to title. Rule 7, Sec. 3c.*

*For engrossment of bill. Rule 5, Sec. 9.*

**Sec. 19. Reference Committee.** The Executive Board shall constitute the Reference Committee. The Reference Committee shall review each bill and resolution and either refer the bill to a standing committee or to General File.

Those placed on General File will be bracketed for five calendar days, and if one senator requests a public hearing on one or more of these bills, they will then be referred to a committee. Bills on General File for which public hearings have not been requested will be handled as all bills on General File.

*Reference of resolutions. Rule 4, Sec. 8.*

**Sec. 20. Objection to Reference of Bills.** Any member may object to the reference of any bill or other proposition, and correction in case of error in reference may be made by the Legislature by unanimous consent, or by the vote of a majority of the elected members.

**Sec. 21. Special Committees.** Special committees shall include all permanent committees other than standing or select committees. The special committees shall include but not be limited to the following:

Intergovernmental Cooperation. RRS 81-816 . . . . .	5 members
Nebraska Retirement Systems. RRS 50-416 . . . . .	5 members
Conflict of Interest. RRS 49-1105 . . . . .	4 senate members
Law Enforcement and Justice Advisory	
Committees, Judiciary Committee. RRS 50-601 . . . . .	8 members
Nebraska Transportation Advisory Committee. RRS 50-421.5 members	
Education Commission of the States. RRS 79-2504 . . . . .	4 members
Administrative Rules Committee. RRS 84-908 . . . . .	9 members
(Chosen by Congressional caucus)	

### **RULE 3**

**Sec. 22. Investigating Committees.** The Committee on Committees may appoint other select committees when authorized by the Legislature. No investigating committee of the Legislature shall be created except by resolution which shall set forth, with supporting statements, the reasons for and the purposes of the investigation, and no committee thus established shall function except during the interim between legislative sessions.

**Sec. 23. Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee.** The Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee together with the chairman of the Appropriation Committee shall function during each legislative session as a special committee of the Legislature, shall have jurisdiction over all bills proposing new or amending existing retirement systems of the state and its political subdivisions. All rules of procedure and operation of the standing committees shall apply, except as to a date certain for holding hearings.

*RRS 50-416*

**Sec. 24. Intergovernmental Cooperation.** In addition to the members of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Committee chosen in accordance with Sec. 81-816, the Executive Board may appoint alternate members to serve on such assignments as the chairman shall direct.

## RULE 4—RESOLUTIONS

**Section 1. Identifications.** A resolution shall be designated as Legislative Resolution \_\_\_\_\_. All resolutions shall be numbered consecutively for each Legislature. All resolutions shall be introduced and read by the Clerk upon introduction and shall be printed in the Legislative Journal.

*73-74 Attorney General Opinion No. 13 – Resolutions must be printed and read before a vote is taken.*

**Sec. 2. When Considered As a Bill.** Resolutions which propose amendments to the state constitution, propose the ratification of amendments to the federal constitution, or memorialize the Congress for the purpose of proposing amendments to the U. S. Constitution, or the rejection, change, alteration, amendment, or modification of rules under the provisions of Section 84-904, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, shall be considered and adopted in the same manner as bills.

*Const. Art. III, Secs. 13, 14; Art. IV, Sec. 15; Art. XVI, Sec. 1.  
Const. Art. III, Sec. 25, Cannot appropriate funds by resolution.*

**Sec. 3. Study Resolution.** Resolutions which propose that studies be made by the Legislative Council shall be first referred to the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, this Board to submit a report with each resolution recommending that the proposed study be made or rejected. The Executive Board of the Legislative Council shall determine the time and number of interim studies. All such studies authorized by the Legislature shall be referred to the appropriate permanent standing or special committee by the Executive Board. The chief introducer of a study resolution shall, if not otherwise a member of the committee to which the resolution is assigned, be an ex officio member of said committee, but such membership shall not extend beyond the convening of the next legislative session and shall be limited to a study of that resolution only.

*RRS 50-404*

**Sec. 4.** All resolutions, if amended, shall pass through the process of Enrollment and Review in the regular course of their consideration.

**Sec. 5.** All resolutions shall be adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the elected members except for those specified in Section 2 which shall be considered and adopted in the same manner as bills.

## **RULE 4**

**Sec. 6.** Resolutions shall lie over for consideration at least one legislative day after introduction.

**Sec. 7.** Only those resolutions specified in sections 2 and 3 of this Rule shall be engrossed unless otherwise ordered by the Legislature or unless the Clerk determines the nature of the resolution is such that upon its adoption it must be engrossed to properly achieve the purpose for which it was presented. All resolutions which are engrossed shall be enrolled and signed by the Lt. Governor or Speaker and certified to by the Clerk as to the date of final passage.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 8. Reference to Committee.** Resolutions other than those covered by Secs. 2 and 3 of this rule may be referred to a committee if a motion to do so is adopted by a majority of the elected members.

**Sec. 9. Reviving Resolution Killed by Committee.** If the standing committee report on a resolution be to postpone indefinitely the resolution shall stand indefinitely postponed; Provided, that such resolution may be considered by the members of the Legislature if a majority vote of the elected members so direct, provided the motion is made within three legislative days after the committee makes its report to the Legislature. A motion to raise cannot be amended to include any other resolution or subject matter.

*For public hearing, Rule 3, Sec. 5.*

**Sec. 10.** A committee, when reporting out a resolution shall attach thereto a statement setting forth what is sought to be accomplished and the committee vote. The statement shall be set out in full in the Journal.

*Emergency seat of government; Resolution proving for, must be signed by Governor. RRS 23-2103, 1943, by Governor.*



## RULE 5—BILLS—GENERAL PROVISIONS

**Section 1. Drafting of Bills.** The bill drafter shall prepare all bills and amendments in proper form when requested by members of the Legislature, newly elected members of the Legislature, or heads of executive departments. No bills or major amendments shall be introduced or considered unless the same has been approved as to form and draftsmanship by the bill drafter. In order to shorten the length of sections, the bill drafter shall, in the drafting of new sections, make each paragraph a separate section except when to do so would be contrary to sound bill drafting practice. The bill drafter shall make available a continuing compilation of sections to which amendments are proposed so as to reduce unnecessary duplication of bills. This section index of bills drafted shall be available to all senators, newly elected senators, and other persons entitled to have bills drafted. After January 1 of each year no bill shall be drafted by the bill drafter unless requested or authorized by a member of the Legislature.

Legislative Bill No. \_\_\_\_.

*Style of bill. Const. Art. III, Sec. 13.*

(b) No bill shall contain more than one subject, and the same shall be clearly expressed in the title. No law shall be amended, unless the new act contains the section or sections as amended, and the section or sections so amended shall be repealed.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

(c) An amendatory bill or constitutional provision shall be so prepared and printed as to show the new matter proposed, old matter to be retained, and old matter to be omitted from the Statutes or Constitution.

**Sec. 3. Revisor Correctional Bills, Pre-Printing.** (a) Preceding each legislative session, the chairman or any member of the Executive Board of the Legislative Council, or if the Executive Board so requests, the senator who, in the preceding session served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, shall sign as introducer the Revisor of Statutes correctional bills. The Clerk of the Legislature shall number these bills consecutively beginning with number 1 and shall show the committee reference to be General File. The Clerk of the Legislature shall have these bills printed before the convening of the next regular session.

(b) In addition to causing to be printed the revisor bills, the Clerk shall

## **RULE 5**

number and cause to be printed all bills delivered to him by the Executive Board, provided said Board has referred said bills to a standing committee. No bill so printed shall be withdrawn until after the Legislature convenes.

**Sec. 4. Introducers Signing Bills.** Members shall introduce only such bills as they are willing to endorse and support personally. Not more than three senators shall sign any single bill; Provided that, this limitation shall not apply to committee bills, to Legislative Council bills, and to Revisor of Statutes correctional bills. The last name and district shall be used, unless an initial or name is necessary to identify the introducer. Any additional signers shall be by the suspension of the rules with a machine vote and cannot be made by unanimous consent.

**Sec. 5. Introduction of Bills, Ten Day Limitation.** (a) Except as provided in Rule 5, Sec. 6, no bill shall be introduced after the tenth legislative day during sessions in odd-numbered or even-numbered years, except as hereinafter provided.

(b) A bill may be introduced at the request of the Governor at any time. A standing committee or special committee may introduce a bill for any purpose including at the request of another senator provided said bill receives the endorsement of a majority of the committee members, whose names shall be on the bill and the motion to introduce the bill receives a vote of three-fifths of the elected members of the Legislature.

(c) A copy of intent of a bill recommended for introduction by a committee must be placed on each member's desk before such introduction of bill is voted upon.

(d) In regular sessions each member shall be limited as an introducer or co-introducer to a total of 10 bills for the period of introduction of bills by individual members. Any bill withdrawn by a member during the introduction period shall be counted in the limitation of 10 bills; Provided, those bills introduced as a result of an interim study of the Legislative Council shall not be included in the limitation on individual members. Bills introduced under Rule 5, Sec. 3a will not be included in the limitation.

**Sec. 6. Fiscal Analyst.** (a) A copy of every bill introduced shall be transmitted by the Clerk to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall review each bill and make an estimate of the anticipated change in state, county, or municipal expenditures or revenue under the provisions of the bill. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall

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prepare a statement to be known as a fiscal note to be attached to each bill prior to its public hearing by a committee, or its first consideration on General File if the bill is referred directly to General File. The fiscal note shall set forth the fiscal impact of the bill and the governmental subdivision affected by the fiscal impact as determined by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst. No bill which has a fiscal impact of more than five thousand dollars shall be heard by a committee or considered on General File unless the fiscal note is attached.

(b) In determining the fiscal impact of any bill, the Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall request the appropriate department or other entity of state government or subdivision thereof, or appropriate association which will be affected by the bill to prepare the fiscal note within five calendar days.

(c) The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall review the fiscal note so prepared and shall also request a review of such fiscal note by the Budget Division of the Department of Administrative Services. The statement by the Budget Division of the Department of Administrative Services shall be attached to and become a part of the fiscal note. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst shall include in the fiscal note any exceptions to the conclusions of the department or other entity and of the Budget Division of the Department of Administrative Services.

(d) The fiscal note shall be delivered by the Legislative Fiscal Analyst to the Clerk within ten calendar days of receipt of a copy of the bill for analysis. The Clerk shall attach the fiscal note to the bill and to all copies prepared for members.

(e) When amendments to a bill are adopted by a committee or the Legislature and such amendments would change the fiscal impact of the bill, the appropriate changes shall be made in the fiscal note.

(f) When the Legislative Fiscal Analyst determines that the fiscal impact of a bill will be less than five thousand dollars, it shall not be necessary to prepare a detailed fiscal note, and the fiscal note may merely state this fact.

(g) When any bill proposes adoption of a new program or change of an existing program either of which would require an appropriation of \$50,000 or more to implement in the ensuing fiscal year an appropriation bill for the purposes of funding the provisions of such bill shall be prepared from the information contained in the fiscal note. Such appropriation bill shall be prepared at the direction of the Chairman of the

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Appropriations Committee. Such bill shall be placed on General File and considered as introduced by the introducer of the original bill or by the committee which offered the amendments creating the expenditure, and shall bear the number of the original bill with the letter "A" added, and shall accompany the original bill through all stages of the legislative process. All bills for which an "A" bill is prepared shall be bracketed on Final Reading until the "A" bill is advanced to Final Reading.

(h) The authorization bill shall first be considered and if it should be passed on Final Reading then the "A" bill shall be read and voted on for final passage.

(i) The note shall be factual in nature, as brief and concise as may be, and shall if possible provide a reliable estimate in dollars and, in addition, it shall include both the immediate effect and, if determinable or reasonably foreseeable, the long range effect of the measure. If, after investigation, it is determined that no dollar estimate is possible, the note shall contain a statement to that effect, setting forth the reasons why no dollar estimate can be given.

(j) No comment or opinion shall be included in the fiscal note with regard to the merits of the measure for which the note is prepared, however, technical or mechanical defects may be noted.

(k) The subject matter of bills submitted to boards, commissions, departments, agencies, or other entities of the state by the Fiscal Analyst shall be kept in strict confidence by said agencies and by the office of Fiscal Analyst together with the content of the fiscal note itself and no information relating thereto shall be divulged by any official or employee prior to its introduction in the Legislature.

(l) To implement the provisions of and assure compliance with Art. III, Sec. 22, of the Nebraska Constitution (deficiency appropriations), and Art. IV, Sec. 7 of the Nebraska Constitution (appropriations in excess of Governor's request), the Appropriations Committee shall advise the Legislature of the number of votes required to assure passage of the same.

*For creation of position. RRS 50-418.*

*For duties of position. RRS 50-419.*

**Sec. 7. Governor's Budget Bill.** The budget bill prepared by the Governor shall be shown as introduced by the Speaker of the Legislature at the request of the Governor.

*Governor's Budget message.  
Const. Art. IV, Sec. 7.*

**Sec. 8. Reading Title of Bills, Printing.** Every bill and resolution shall be read by title when introduced, and a printed copy thereof provided for the use of each member, and the bill and all amendments thereto shall be printed and read at large before the vote is taken upon its final passage.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 9. Engrossment of Bills.** All bills, before being advanced to Final Reading and passage, shall be engrossed, and copies thereof showing new and stricken matter shall be made available to members.

**Sec. 10. Expenditure of Legislative Funds.** Those expenditures on which the Legislature votes shall require the approval of the majority of the elected members.

*Salaries of employees. Rule 1, Sec. 22.*

**Sec. 11. Withdrawal of Bills.** No bill, having been introduced may be withdrawn except upon motion of the first introducer with the consent of his co-introducers. Such motion, when made, shall not be considered prior to the next succeeding legislative day, and, for its adoption, shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of those voting upon the question.

*Withdrawal of bills set for hearing. Rule 3, Sec. 5.*

**Sec. 12. Division of Bills, Prohibited.** No bill shall be divided into two or more bills.

**Sec. 13. Holding of Bills.** Unless otherwise disposed of, all bills on which no final action has been taken by the time of adjournment of the regular session in odd-numbered years shall be held over for consideration at the regular session convening in even-numbered years.



## RULE 6—BILLS—STAGES OF CONSIDERATION

**Section 1. Introduction of Bills.** Starting with regular sessions in odd-numbered years, bills shall be numbered consecutively starting with the number 1. Bills introduced in regular sessions in even-numbered years shall start with the number following the number of the last bill introduced in the preceding regular session of an odd-numbered year, (bills introduced in any special session shall start with the number 1) and shall be numbered consecutively as read by the Clerk. After introduction the Clerk shall deliver bills requiring reference to the Reference Committee.

**Sec. 2. General File.** (a) The Clerk of the Legislature shall read the number and the title of the bill and the name of the principal introducer as it comes up for consideration on General File. A bill will not be read section by section unless requested by a member of the Legislature.

(b) Each section shall be open to amendment. The amendments, if any, recommended by standing committees, shall first be considered. The introducer's amendments, if any, shall next be considered, after which he may move to advance and explain the bill. Other amendments and motions permitted by these rules may then be offered and shall be considered after the introducer has explained the bill in the order in which they are filed with the Clerk, subject to the provisions of Rule 7, Sec. 3.

(c) Bills shall be listed and considered on General File in the order in which they shall be reported from the standing committees, except as modified by the Speaker; Provided, that any bill that comes up for debate for a second time, with the introducer present, shall be placed by the Clerk at the bottom of General File if said introducer asked for further time, unless otherwise directed by the Speaker.

*Speaker determine order of bills. Rule 1, Sec. 16.*

(d) During consideration of bills on either General or Select File, any member may move that the bill be passed over once and if the motion is carried by a majority of those voting, the bill shall be passed over and shall retain its place on the file.

(e) At any stage of consideration of a bill, a motion to bracket or to unbracket to a day certain or to unbracket shall, if made by the primary introducer of the bill, require a majority of those voting. If made by other than the primary introducer, there shall then be required a majority vote of the elected membership. In any event such motions shall alternatively be passed by unanimous consent of the body.

(f) In the event a motion to indefinitely postpone a bill is made before the bill is read on General File, such motion shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the elected members.

## RULE 6

(g) In the event a bill has become substantially a new and different bill by reason of amendments having been adopted, the Speaker may refer said bill to the Reference Committee who must refer the said bill to a proper committee for a public hearing; Provided, that a majority of the elected members may overrule the decision of the Speaker.

(h) If in the opinion of the Speaker, the bill is in such form that it should properly be referred back to committee for further action he may by order direct the same; Provided, that a majority of the elected members may overrule the decision of the Speaker. Any rule to the contrary notwithstanding any motion to amend a bill shall require a majority vote of the elected members. Any motion to amend an appropriation bill or a motion to amend an amendment to an appropriation bill shall require a majority vote of the elected members.

(i) Any bill failing to receive 25 votes to be advanced to E & R Initial after three attempts shall be indefinitely postponed.

**The following votes shall be required to adopt the following motions affecting bills on General File:**

*UC-Unanimous Consent; MEM-Majority of Elected Members;  
MTV-Majority of those voting.*

### GENERAL FILE

On introduction of bill, Motions to		Rule-Sec.
Add names as introducers	UC	5-4
More than 3, Suspension of Rules		
Place on General File without public hearing	MEM	3-19
Withdraw bill	MTV	5-11
On consideration of bill on General File		
Move to pass over	MTV	6-2d
Move to change order	MEM	
Move to IPP before bill is read	MEM	6-2e
Move to IPP after bill is read	MTV	
Move to Advance to E & R Review	MEM	6-3
Move to return to Committee	MEM	
Move to Reconsider		
(within one legislative day thereafter)	MEM	7-7a
(If after one legislative day, by suspension of the rules only)		7-7a
Move to expedite	UC	



## RULE 6

Move to amend	MEM	6-2g
Move to amend the Amendment	MTV	
Move to withdraw bill-first introducer	MTV	5-11
If returned from Select File		
Motion to return to Select File	MEM	6-4d
Motion to amend	MEM	6-2g
Motion to advance	MEM	6-3
Move to return to E & R for Engrossing	MEM	6-4d
Defeated bill, motion to reconsider	MEM	7-7
Returned from Final Reading		
Advance to Final Reading (if no amendments)	MEM	

### *Withdrawal of bills. Rule 3, Sec. 5.*

Sec. 3. Enrollment and Review. Bills when advanced to Enrollment and Review shall be reviewed for recommendations relative to arrangement, phraseology, and correlation. Advancement to Enrollment and Review from General File for such purpose shall require a majority of the elected members. A motion to return to General File from Enrollment and Review shall, for adoption, require the concurrence of a majority of the elected members.

Sec. 4. Select File. When the Legislature considers bills on Select File, any of the following motions shall be in order.

(a) A motion to approve or reject any or all of the changes recommended by the chairman of Enrollment and Review.

(b) A motion to adopt an amendment which shall require a majority of the elected members.

(c) A motion to recommit to the proper standing committee.

(d) A motion to recommit to General File for one or more amendments. If the motion to return is adopted the bill shall be considered first on General File. Any motion may be made the same as when the bill was first on General File. If the bill is readvanced, it shall be given priority consideration by E & R. If the bill is not altered, it may be advanced to E & R for engrossment.

(e) A motion to postpone indefinitely.

(f) Motions made pursuant to subsections b, c, d, and e hereof may be adopted only upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the elected members.

(g) Amendments recommended by E & R shall not be read by the Clerk except upon the request of a member of the Legislature.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this section, if the E & R Committee returns a bill to Select File from engrossment, then only the specific enrollment and review amendments may be considered.

(i) Any bill failing to receive 25 votes to be advanced to E & R Final after two attempts shall be indefinitely postponed.

The following votes shall be required to adopt the following motions affecting bills on Select File:

SELECT FILE		Rule-Sec.
Motion to advance to E & R for Engrossing	MEM	
if machine vote requested	MEM	6-4d
Motion to act on E & R amendment	MTV	6-4a
Motion to amend	MEM	6-4b
Motion to recommit to a standing committee	MEM	6-4d
Motion to return to General File for amendment	MEM	6-4d
Motion to Indefinitely Postpone	MEM	6-4e
On bill returned from E & R Engrossing & Final Reading		
Motion to return for specific amendment	MEM	6-5
Motion to adopt specific amendment	MEM	6-5

Sec. 5. Return to Select File. On a motion to return a bill to Select File for a specific amendment, a majority of the elected members must concur. No other amendment shall be considered when the bill is so returned. Such amendment when considered may be adopted by a majority of the elected members.

Sec. 6. Final Reading. No bill shall be voted on for final passage until:

(a) After five legislative days following the introduction of the bill.

(b) Two legislative days after its reference to Final Reading file.

(c) Printed copies of the bill in its final form, as amended, shall have been available to members and on their desks for at least one legislative day.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 14.*

**Sec. 7. Final Reading, Motions.** On Final Reading the bill shall be read at large with all amendments thereto before the vote is taken. At any time before the roll call shall have begun on Final Reading of the bill, it shall be in order to move:

(a) To recommit the bill to Enrollment and Review to correct an error and for re-engrossment.

(b) To recommit the bill to the proper standing committee, with or without instructions.

(c) To recommit the bill to Select File for specific amendment, which amendment may be adopted by a vote of a majority of the elected members; Provided, however, if the proposed amendment be to add the emergency clause, it may only be adopted by a vote of two-thirds of the elected members.

(d) Any bill returned to Select File for a specific amendment, may if the amendment is rejected, be readvanced to Final Reading without going through Enrollment & Review. A motion to so advance shall require the concurrence of a majority of the elected members.

*Members to remain in their seat. Rule 2, Sec. 3g.*

*No one to be seated beside member during Final Reading. Rule 2, Sec. 3d.*

**Sec. 8. Question on Final Reading.** The question after the Final Reading of bill shall be: "All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, 'Shall the bill pass?'" If the emergency clause is contained in the bill, the words "with the emergency clause attached" shall be added to the question.

*Majority of elected members required. Const. Art. III, Sec. 13.*

**Sec. 9. Emergency Clause, Votes Requested.** When a bill containing the emergency clause does not receive the required two-thirds constitutional majority on Final Reading, then the emergency clause shall be considered stricken, and the bill without the emergency clause shall be pending on Final Reading, and the question then shall be, "Shall the bill pass with the emergency clause stricken?"

## RULE 6

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 27.*

**Sec. 10. Governor's Veto, Reconsideration.** Upon the day of receipt of a message from the Governor announcing his veto of a bill, or on either of the next five legislative days, any member may move that the bill so vetoed be taken up for passage. Whereupon, the question shall be, "Shall the bill pass, notwithstanding the objection of the Governor?"

*Three-fifths vote of the elected members required to pass bill over Governor's veto. Const. Art. IV, Sec. 15. See also Art. IV, Sec. 7.*

The Governor may disapprove any item or items of appropriation contained in bills passed by the Legislature, and the item or items so disapproved shall be stricken therefrom, unless repassed in the manner prescribed in case of disapproval of bills.

*Const. Art. IV, Sec. 15.*

**Sec. 11. Bills, Passed Over Veto.** Should the Legislature pass a bill over the objections of the Governor by the necessary constitutional majority, it shall so certify and deposit the same with the Secretary of State.

*RRS 84-503.*

**Sec. 12. Certificates.** Whenever the Legislature shall override a line item veto, on any bill as provided for in Article 10, Section 15, the Clerk of the Legislature shall cause to be placed on such bill a certificate in content and form as provided for in RRS 84-503 and shall list the items so overridden by section, page, and line.

In addition to such certificate the Clerk of the Legislature shall note on each line, which the legislature votes to override, a stamp reading "line item veto overridden" and place thereon the date and his initials.

**Sec. 13. (a)** Whenever the Governor shall have vetoed more than one item in an appropriation bill, the Appropriations Committee shall review said veto and the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee shall report within one legislative day to the Legislature on it's fiscal implications, and affect on operations. If the Appropriations Committee by majority vote decides to recommend to the Legislature an override of the veto on any portion of such an appropriation bill, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee or his/her designee shall first be permitted an opportunity to move that the entire bill become law notwithstanding the line item veto therein.

## RULE 6

(b) If such motion fails or is not offered the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee or his/her designee shall then introduce motions to override selected portions of the vetoed bill.

(c) Any member of the Legislature may then offer a motion to override the veto of the bill or any portion thereof if the Appropriations Committee by majority action decides not to recommend overriding the veto of the bill or the veto of that portion of the bill.

(d) It shall require 30 votes of the elected members to amend a veto override motion that includes another line veto item.

**Sec. 14.** When a proposed constitutional amendment does not receive the required four-fifths constitutional majority necessary to submit such proposed amendment to the electors at a special election, then the special election language of the bill shall be stricken, and the bill shall be pending on Final Reading, and the question shall be, "Shall the bill pass providing for the submission of such proposition at the next general election?"

**The following votes shall be required to adopt the following motions on Final Reading:**

### FINAL READING

		Rule-Sec.
To return to standing committee	MEM	6-7
To return to E & R to correct an error	MEM	6-7
To return to Select File for specific amendment	MEM	6-5
Unless to add the emergency clause	2/3	6-7
To pass on Final Reading	MEM	6-8
With emergency clause attached	2/3	6-9
Creation of State Office	2/3	
<i>Const. Art. IV, Sec. 27</i>		
Motion to reconsider (when failed on Final Reading)	3/5	7-7
To add the emergency clause	2/3	6-7
Override Governor's veto	3/5	6-10
"A" bills considered first		5-6g

*Constitutional Amendment. If proposition is to submit amendment to electorate at special election fails to receive 4/5 plurality, then amend bill to provide for general election when adoption is by 3/5 plurality. RRS 49-236.*



## RULE 7—PROCEEDINGS AND MOTIONS

### (A) Order of Business

**Section 1. Meeting Time, Restrictions.** (a) The Legislature shall meet annually at 10:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January of each year and thereafter on each legislative day at 9:00 a.m., and adjourn not later than 1:00 p.m., unless otherwise ordered by a majority vote of its members present and voting thereon. The Legislature shall remain in session until it shall adjourn sine die, but in no event shall it remain in session for longer than ninety (90) legislative days in odd-numbered years or sixty (60) legislative days in even-numbered years. This limitation may be suspended by a four-fifths vote of the elected senators.

*Const. Art. III, Sec. 10.*

Each day the Legislature convenes shall be considered a legislative day.

(b) The order of business of the Legislature shall be as follows; except as otherwise provided by the Speaker.

- a. Prayer by the Chaplain
- b. Roll call
- c. Call for correction of the Journal
- d. Petitions and memorials
- e. Notice of committee hearings and reports
- f. Bills on Final Reading
- g. Resolutions
- h. Introduction of bills and reading by title
- i. Consideration of bills on Select File
- j. Motions to reconsider
- k. Motions to advance bills from committee
- l. Other pending motions
- m. Unfinished business, including messages on President's desk
- n. Consideration of bills on General File
- o. Miscellaneous business

(c) Messages from the Governor may be received at any stage of the proceedings.

(d) When a bill shall have been made a special order for a definite time and an adjournment shall intervene for a time beyond the time fixed for such special order, then in that event the bill so made a special order shall be placed in its order on General File. The unfinished business in which the

## **RULE 7**

Legislature was engaged at the adjournment of the last preceding sitting shall have preference in the special order of the day.

(e) Upon call for the introduction of bills, any member or any standing committee to which bills are referred for consideration may introduce one or more bills.

*Introduction of bills. Rule 6, Sec. 1.*

### **(B) Voting Machine**

**Sec. 2. Voting, Electric Roll Call.** (a) All votes shall be taken viva voca unless otherwise provided for herein. Questions shall be distinctly put in this form, to wit: "Those who are in favor of the question say 'aye'; those who are opposed to the question say 'nay'."

(b) If a machine vote is called for or if the presiding officer is in doubt, he shall cause the result to be obtained by means of the electric roll call system, and in such event shall accept only machine tallied votes except that voice votes shall be accepted on a motion before the House while the House is under Call. The presiding officer may vote by voice. Only the totals shall be printed in the Journal. Once having voted aye or nay, senators may call in a change to not voting prior to the locking of the voting board.

(c) Upon the final passage of a bill, or of a resolution if the same required the same consideration as a bill, the vote shall be by yeas and nays, and the electric roll call system shall be used. Voice votes shall be accepted on Final Reading.

(d) Whenever the "ayes" and "nays" are taken by machine vote no member shall be permitted to vote after the decision is announced by the presiding officer or the clerk. Votes not registered on the electric roll call system shall not be counted for or against a proposition. In announcing such vote the clerk shall announce the ayes, the nays, those present and not voting, those absent and not voting, and those excused and not voting, and on any action to advance or amend bills, these totals shall be set forth in the Journal. Voice votes shall be accepted on roll call or record votes.

### **(C) Motions**

**Sec. 3. Motion, in Writing, Withdrawal.** (a) A motion shall be either stated



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by the presiding officer or read by the Clerk before a vote is taken. All motions shall be submitted in writing if requested by the presiding officer or any senator.

Once motions are stated they may be withdrawn or modified by the mover before a decision, amendment, or ordering of a vote has been made. A motion to reconsider may be withdrawn only with unanimous consent or a majority vote of the elected members.

When a question is under debate no motion shall be considered except one of the following, which motions shall take precedence in the order stated.

- a. To adjourn
- b. For the previous question
- c. To postpone to a time certain
- d. To recommit to a committee
- e. To amend
- f. To postpone indefinitely

Such motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are arranged, except that motions to postpone indefinitely and amend do not yield to each other.

When any of the following motions shall be made, any action on such motion shall be delayed at least one legislative day and the motion shall be printed in the Legislative Journal:

- a. Motion to postpone indefinitely on Select File
- b. Motion to advance bills from committee
- c. Motion to place bills on General File, notwithstanding the action of a standing committee

(b) When a motion or other proposition is under consideration, a motion to amend and a motion to amend that amendment shall be in order.

(c) Amendments to the title shall be made by the Enrollment and Review Committee.

(d) No motion, proposition, or subject, different from that under consideration, shall be admitted under color of amendment.

(e) Any member may call for the division of a question, which shall be divided if it comprehends propositions in substance so distinct that, one

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being taken away, a substantive proposition shall remain for the decision of the Legislature. A motion to strike out and insert shall be deemed indivisible, but a motion to strike out being lost, shall not preclude an amendment or a motion to strike out or insert.

(f) When motions are made for reference of the same subject to a select committee and to a standing committee, the question on reference to the standing committee shall be considered first.

**Sec. 4. Shall the Debate Cease.** The previous question shall be in this form, "Shall the debate now close?"

The previous question shall be in order when demanded by five or more members and must be sustained by the vote of a majority of the elected members, and until decided shall, except as provided in this section of this rule, preclude further debate and all amendments and motions, except one motion to adjourn.

On a previous question there shall be no debate. All incidental questions of order, arising after a motion is made for a previous question, and pending such motion, shall be decided, whether on appeal or otherwise, without debate.

When the previous question shall have been ordered on a proposition under debate, the mover, proponent, or introducer of such proposition shall be given the right to close the debate thereon.

**Sec. 5. Call of the Legislature.** A Call of the Legislature may be made by any member in the manner following: "I move for a Call of the Legislature." The presiding officer shall direct that the board be cleared and the members shall then vote on placing themselves under Call. If a majority of the senators present and voting vote in favor of such a motion then the Legislature shall be deemed to be under Call. Each member present shall indicate his presence upon the electric roll call system and shall remain in his seat during the Call. After the Clerk shall note the names of the absentees, proceedings under the Call may be suspended at any time by a majority vote of the members then present, and when so suspended shall not again be ordered on the proposition pending, except by a majority vote of the members elected. If all absentees were to vote on one side of the question, and if their combined vote would be insufficient to change the result of the vote, the President shall declare the Call raised.

## RULE 7

*Lieutenant Governor votes only when Legislature equally divided.*

*Rule 1, Sec. 14.*

*Voice vote while House under Call. Rule 7, Sec. 2b.*

**Sec. 6. Postpone to Time Certain.** No motion to postpone to a time certain, to commit, or to postpone indefinitely being decided, shall again be allowed on the same day at the same stage of the bill or proposition.

**Sec. 7. Reconsideration.** (a) When a question has been decided, it shall be in order for any member voting with the prevailing side, or not voting, to move for a reconsideration thereof. A motion to reconsider must be made on the same day the original question was decided or on the next legislative day, except when it be to reconsider the vote on a bill which lacked the constitutional majority on a Final Reading. In such case, it must be made on the same day the original question was decided or on one of the next three legislative days. A motion to reconsider must be disposed of by the Legislature within five legislative days after making the same or it shall be deemed defeated. If the Legislature shall refuse to reconsider, or upon reconsideration shall affirm its first decision, no further motion to reconsider shall be in order unless by unanimous consent.

*Motion to reconsider cannot be withdrawn without leave. Rule 7, Sec. 3.*

(b) Every motion to reconsider shall take preference over all other questions, except a motion to adjourn.

(c) For its adoption, a motion to reconsider shall require the vote of a majority of the elected members, except:

- i Where such motion be to reconsider the vote on a bill which lacked the constitutional majority on a Final Reading, then a three-fifths vote shall be required for adoption.
- ii Where such motion be to reconsider the vote on a bill which lacked the constitutional majority on a Final Reading with the emergency clause attached, but which received the constitutional majority with the emergency clause stricken and the purpose of the motion is to again add the emergency clause, then a two-thirds vote of the elected members shall be required for adoption.

**Sec. 8. Strike the Enacting Clause.** A motion to strike the enacting clause if adopted, is equivalent to rejection of the bill. It shall not have

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precedence over a motion to amend nor a motion to indefinitely postpone.

**Sec. 9. Motion to Adjourn.** A motion to adjourn shall be in order, except:

- a. While a member is speaking.
- b. When a motion to adjourn has just been defeated.
- c. After the Final Reading of a bill and during roll call thereon.

A motion to adjourn to a time certain shall have precedence over a motion to adjourn. A motion to recess shall take precedence over either of such motions.

When a motion to adjourn has been made, the Speaker shall be privileged to speak to the motion prior to any vote on such motion, otherwise a motion to adjourn is not debatable.

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